

Appl. No. 10/539,795; Docket No. NL 030180 US
Amdt. dated October 11, 2006
Response to Office Action dated September 7, 2006

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-12 are pending in the application.

Applicants appreciate Examiner's acknowledgement of allowable subject matter in Claims 1-7.

Applicants have amended the Abstract and have put it on a separate sheet per 37 CFR 1.52(b)(4).

The Specification has been amended per Examiner's observations. Claims 3, 7, and 12 have been amended in response to the objections.

Claim Objections and §112 Rejections

Claims 1 has been amended to better clarify the relationship between the "first magnetic element" and the "second magnetic element" by incorporating the feature of "a conductor placed over the first magnetic element and the second magnetic element of the security device." The amendment is supported by the Specification and contains no new matter. To clarify observations made in the Office Action with respect to Claim 1, "a magnetic element" may be a combination of two associated MRAM-cells with inversely or differently polarized magnetization directions as shown in Figs. 1 (Specification, page 7, lines 11-13)." With respect to Claim 8, the "magnetic security device" "according to the present invention, the security device 30 comprises two inversely magnetized or biased magnetic elements. (Specification, page 7, lines 9-10)."

Applicants believe that the issues raised with Claims 1-7 have been addressed, and ask that the objections and §112 rejections be withdrawn.

Claims 8-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, because claim 8 being held to be a single step (means) claim.

Applicants have amended claim 8 by adding an additional step of "exposing the array to the external magnetic field" before "changing a pre-set magnetization direction of a magnetic security device." Claim 9 had been cancelled and the features, therein, are incorporated into amended claim 8. Furthermore, an initialization step was added to more clearly outline the method of indicating exposure of an array of magnetic memory cells to an external magnetic field. Within the initialization step, the use of a *single* conductor to provide a magnetization field for each magnetic element to be set in anti-

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parallel magnetization directions, this embodiment being a first magnetic element and a second magnetic element. Such changes are supported by the Specification and contain no new matter.

Applicant believes the §112 issue with respect to claims 8-12 has been addressed, and ask that the §112 rejections be withdrawn.

§102 Rejection

Claims 8-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by *Okazawa* (US Pat 6,532,163 hereafter "*Okazawa*").

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection. Claim 8 has been amended includes the feature of *"initializing magnetization directions of a magnetic security device, using a single conductor providing an initializing magnetic field over the magnetic security device, wherein the security device includes a first magnetic element and a second magnetic element, each magnetic element being initialized anti-parallel directions, . . ."*

This feature of using "one single conductor 12 which is placed over the elements 10, 11 of the security device so that an opposite magnetic field is created at the location of the two elements 10, 11 by one and the same current pulse. In order to obtain this, the write line 12 may have a U-shape with two legs 20, 21, each of the elements 10, 11 of security device 30 being influence by the current pulse through one of the leg 20, 21. No two current lines are need for setting the bits of the security device. . "(Specification, page 7, line35- page 8, lines 1-5)," is not anticipated by *Okazawa*.

Applicants request that the 102 rejection be withdrawn. In that claim 8, as amended, is allowable, dependent claims 10-12 are also allowable.

The Commissioner is hereby requested and authorized pursuant to 37 CFR §1.136(a)(3), to treat any concurrent or future reply in this application requiring a petition for extension of time for its timely submission, as incorporating a petition for extension of time for the appropriate length of time. Please charge any additional fees which may now or in the future be required in this application, including extension of time fees, but excluding the issue fee unless explicitly requested to do so, and credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 14-1270.

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Applicants believe they have addressed all of Examiner's concerns. A Notice of Allowance is earnestly requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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